

**IN THE ABSTRACT**

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The present invention concerns a method for protecting ships against terminal homing phase-guided missiles provided with a target data analysis system, as well as an apparatus for implementing the method, wherein the missile moving in a direction towards the ship to be protected is detected by suitable sensors, located, and its expected trajectory is calculated by means of a computer; the type of target data analysis performed by the missile and its attack structure is detected by means of suitable sensors, and the missile is classified with regard to the type of its target data analysis; the current wind speed and direction of wind is continuously detected by means of wind measuring sensors; the ship's own data: travelling speed, direction of travel, rolling and pitching motions, is continuously detected by means of motion and/or navigation sensors; the detected sensor data is transmitted to a fire control calculator which controls at least one decoy launcher and generates, by taking into account all of the detected data, an effective decoy pattern that is adapted to missile and attack structure.